



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Jacksonville District

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Demolition scheduled on former Brooksville Turret Gunnery Range

Munition to be detonated on undeveloped private property

Jacksonville, Fla. – The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Jacksonville District announced today that a 2.36-inch High Explosive (HE) rocket and seven 2.36-inch inert practice rockets have been recovered on the former Brooksville Turret Gunnery Range in Brooksville, Fla.

The items were found during Phase II investigations on a 40-acre undeveloped parcel of land that is privately owned. Demolition of the 2.36-inch HE rocket is planned for tomorrow around Noon. Engineering controls will be used to ensure safety and limit the noise and debris from the blast. The removal action poses no danger to people in the area.

The former Brooksville Turret Gunnery Range was acquired by the War Department in 1943 and was used by the U.S. Army and the U.S. Air Force for infantry and turret gunnery training. It was officially closed shortly after World War II and many munitions sweeps and clearances have been conducted since then; however, inert practice munitions as well as munitions containing High Explosives may remain in the area. These munitions will typically be found beneath the surface of the ground.

Cleanup is being addressed under the Military Munitions Response Program (MMRP) initiative of the Defense Environmental Restoration Program for Formerly Used Defense Sites (DERP-FUDS), to clean up properties which were owned, occupied or under the jurisdiction of the Department of Defense (DoD) and transferred prior to 1986.



During the successful Phase I of the project, a total of 284 bazooka rockets were located. Most of the munitions (230) were inert practices rounds and the remaining 54 munitions contained High Explosives (HE). All of the munitions were destroyed. In addition, more than 11,000 pounds of non-munitions-related debris and more than 1,500 pounds of munitions debris were safely removed

Safety is always the Corps' top priority. Should anyone encounter or suspect they have encountered munitions, it is vitally important that they follow the simple "3 Rs" of explosives safety: **Recognize** the item may be dangerous; **Retreat** and do not touch it; **Report** its location to the local Sheriff's Office immediately.

On behalf of the Department of Defense, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers cleans up sites that were formerly used by the military.

For more information about the former Brooksville Turret Gunnery Range, please visit our web site at www.saj.usace.army.mil and click on the Brooksville Turret Gunnery Range link or contact the Corporate Communication Office at 904-232-1576 or 1-800-291-9413.

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